LEDGER-DISPATCH & STAR
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Warehousemen Relax Today

Tobaccoman Claims Research Hampered

VIRGINIA BEACH — Tobacconmen attending the annual convention of the Bright Belt Warehouse Assn. had plenty of free time on their hands today in this oceanside resort.

No business sessions were on tap. The convention concludes tomorrow after members hear the annual report of Fred S. Royster, of Henderson, N.C., managing director of the association.

One of the main speakers at yesterday's convention session was W. Tom Hoyt of New York, executive secretary of the tobacco industry research committee, formed six years ago to support scientific investigation into the relationship between smoking and human health.

Hoyt said "emotional anti-tobacco people, by implying that the answer to lung cancer is settled, may be doing a great disservice to research on health problems of the public.

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"Obviously, such a position tends to stifle new and important research. It even concludes that lung cancer is primarily caused by an inhaled agent, which is not an established fact.

"Furthermore, when exaggerated claims by the anti-tobacco group are shown to be wrong — as I am sure they will be — the whole subject of research will be questioned by the public, not only in this field but in others as well. This would indeed be a tragedy," Hoyt said.

Rep. Watkins M. Abbitt (D-Va), scheduled to speak to the convention last night, experienced a plane delay in Washington and arrived too late to deliver his talk, which was cancelled.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
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Tobacco Critics Hurt Research, Speaker Says

VIRGINIA BEACH, June 23—(AP)—A spokesman for the Tobacco Industry Research Committee said Thursday "emotional anti-tobacco people, by implying that the answer to lung cancer is settled, may be doing a great disservice to research on health problems of the public."

"Obviously, such a position tends to stifle new and important research," said W. Tom Hoyt of New York, executive secretary of the committee. "It even concludes that lung cancer is primarily caused by an inhaled agent, which is not an established fact.

"Furthermore," he said, "when exaggerated claims by the anti-tobacco group are shown to be wrong—as I am sure they will be—the whole subject of research will be questioned by the public, not only in this field but in others as well. This would indeed be a tragedy."

Hoyt spoke during a panel discussion at the opening of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association's annual convention.

Purpose Explained

The research committee was formed by the tobacco industry six years ago as a result of published statements that smoking was harmful to health. Its purpose, Hoyt explained, is to support scientific investigation through which "facts could be obtained without bias as to questions raised about tobacco's effect on human health."

Hoyt said more than 3½ million dollars has been made available to independent researchers in laboratories, universities and hospitals in all parts of the United States.

"The money thus granted," he said, "has been given, with no strings attached as to how it is used, to seek facts related with tobacco use and health. All grantees are free to publish whatever results they obtain—good, bad or indifferent."

Criticizes 'Zealots'

Another panel speaker, William H. W. Anderson of Winston-Salem, N. C., secretary-treasurer of the Tobacco Growers Information Committee, deplored the activities of "professional zealots who are trying to destroy the tobacco industry."

Anderson said teachers in public schools in New York, Maryland, Illinois and Florida are using literature and motion pictures in their classrooms in efforts to show that smoking is harmful to health.

J. Con Lanier of Greenville, N. C., executive secretary of the Leaf Tobacco Exporters Association, said he was optimistic over prospects for tobacco exports this year as a result of conversations with officials in several European countries this spring.

Members of the warehouse association were to hear a talk Thursday night by Rep. Watkins M. Abbitt (D-Va), chairman of the tobacco subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee.

No business sessions will be held Friday. The convention will wind up Saturday after the members hear the annual report of the association's managing director, Fred S. Royster of Henderson, N. C.

Tobacco Group Defends Work Of Research

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